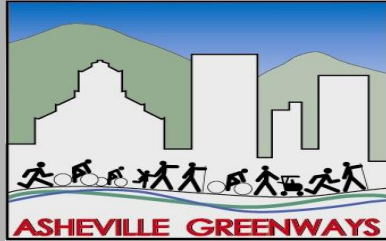


GREENWAY COMMISSION MEETING

October 11, 2012

3:30-5:00 pm

First Floor Conference Room-City Hall



GREENWAY COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Commission is to advise City Council on implementation of a system of greenways within Asheville by integrating City and County Parks and Transportation plans while educating and engaging the public and advocating for funding.

Members Present: Jim Grode, Chairman, Marcia Bromberg, Vice-Chairman, Glen Locascio, Stephen Jones, Ally Donlan Wilson, Mary Weber, Sue Barlow, Chris Pelly, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, Martha McGlohon, Legal Liaison, Blake Esselstyn, Planning & Development, Janet Georgemurr, Transportation Department.

Community Present: Jack Igelman, Brotherhug Barlow, Nancy Hodges

Speaker: Brotherhug (Doug) Barlow

Jim called the meeting to order at 3:30.

Introduction of the Greenway Commission and City Staff as stated above.

Review and approval of 10-11-12 agenda: Jim Grode added to the agenda under New Business, the SACEE-Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment invitation. Marcia Bromberg moved to approve the agenda with the addition of agenda item, Ally Donlan and Mary Weber seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Review and approval of 9/13/12 work session minutes: Sue Barlow moved to approve the minutes as written, Mary Weber seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- **Presentation by Brotherhug Barlow, Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway (FOHCG):**

- Brotherhug Barlow is requesting the Greenway Commission endorse the proposal from the Friends of the Hominy Creek Greenway to lease Waller Tract at 13 Hominy Creek Road from the City of Asheville to create a community greenway park at the rate of \$1.00 per year.
- Questions and recommendations:
 1. Time on the lease is for 10 years, but it is up to the City.
 2. Marcia recommends a review period, i.e. in three years to review what has been done in order to continue. To state the goals that would be accomplished during this period in order to give the City an idea of the benchmarks that are being met.
 3. Would the possibility of a paved greenway be problematic for FOHCG? Brotherhug stated that it is not a problem, but FOHCG does not want to do the construction of the pavement or the maintenance. Brotherhug stated that two new trails have been added and 95% feedback is not to pave. Under ADA compliance the trail needs to be accessible. The idea is to come up with foot and bike trails at the west end created by Greenworks.
 4. Mary asked if this will be maintained by volunteers. Yes, the park will be independent from the City. The City does not have resources for maintaining the park. Brotherhug stated that FOHCG does not want a City park since it is not an urban park plan place. Brotherhug noted that there is a lot of history in this particular area, i.e. first hydro-electric trolley in the world

ran through this area; an Indian trail and Morris camp; and the original settlers of West Asheville and that the FOHCG has the resources to maintain the area.

- ❑ Stephen complimented Brotherhug and his group as a wonderful model that other neighborhoods could learn.
- ❑ Jim Grode comments and recommendations:

1. In following up with bench marks and enforcement mechanisms as well as consequences in failing to meet the bench marks, Jim recommends starting off in the proposal to recognize that FOHCG's accountability before the group goes to Council, rather than relying on the City to come up with the bench marks that FOHCG would not want to meet.

2. The proposal should reflect that there is an existing model for this at Bent Creek Park in Buncombe County to provide a reassurance that this is a viable model. Brotherhug stated that it is mentioned in the proposal, but he will add further information and that the group has met with Bent Creek Park Board and has copies of their bylaws and lease documents.

- ❑ Glen Locascio suggests adding further explanation of details of the Bent Creek Park which is a great model of what could be done at a local level.
- ❑ Brotherhug stated that the County is very supportive of what is being done by FOHCG and a grant is being applied for the serious drainage problem and work in conjunction with New Belgium Brewing.
- ❑ Easement Update: Councilman Pelly stated that it has been a couple of months of ongoing negotiations. Brotherhug stated that he has spoken to both parties and they are ready to sign the easement.
- ❑ There are serious erosion problems that need to be dealt with. The County is eager to get this drainage problem completed because they lost a one of the MSD Bobcats that fell in the erosion areas last summer. The sewer line would also be threatened by the erosion.
- ❑ Mariate stated that there is a meeting scheduled with the departments involved in this project and will update GC next month.
- ❑ Marcia proposes a resolution that GC endorse the plan in concept if not the detail which needs to be worked out with FOHCG and the City. This supports the idea of a responsible incorporated Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway (FOHCG) taking over the responsibility for this area and running it as a park. Recommend in concept the City leasing property to FOHCG. Stephen seconded and opened for discussion.
- ❑ Councilman Pelly added that after reviewing the park with Brotherhug what we know about the City's budget and the ability to paving in the near term, he thinks that the non-profit that has been established in helping to maintain the park until the funding can become available for the improvements is a good idea. Commended FOHCG on the community initiative on this project and he will speak in favor to Council.
- ❑ Brotherhug stated that even after the paved road, FOHCG still wants to maintain the park.
- ❑ After the discussion, all GC members were in favor of the resolution.
- ❑ Brotherhug announced a fundraising event on 10/28 at Altamont Brewing in West Asheville from 3-6pm. There is also a bike ride at 2pm by Blue Ridge Bicycle Club circle from the brewery through the greenway.

- **Revision of GC Mission Statement:** After a group discussion, Stephen moved to adopt the Mission Statement, Sue Barlow seconded and carried unanimously, the following statement which was read by Jim Grode:

"The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Commission is to advise City Council on implementation of a system of greenways within Asheville by integrating City and County Parks and Transportation plans while educating and engaging the public and advocating for funding."

Jim suggested having the mission statement as part of the logo on the GC agendas and minutes. Perhaps, at some point in time, the resolution wording may change.

- **County Greenway Plan Resolution:** Jim Grode drafted the resolution in support of the Buncombe County Greenway Master Plan. GC approved the resolution as it is written; Marcia moved to accept and endorse the resolution; Sue seconded and carried unanimously. Jim and Marcia signed the resolution which will go to City Council on October 23, 2012.

- Mary Weber - stated that due to the word "funding" if it is wise to present to Council during an election year and to avoid any red flags.
- Marcia Bromberg stated that the County Commission has approved the master plan and that the City GC is confirming that municipalities are in agreement with the County's resolution. It is up to the newly elected County Commissioners to do what they will with the resolution once they receive it.
- Mariate stated that the other reason why the County Greenway Plan resolution is coming at this time is due to Claudia Nix's approach to Council requesting support for the Plan.
- Councilman Pelly stated that the Council wants to show support in a timely manner.

- **City Greenway Planning Report:** Jim stated that this refers to asking for an amendment to add projects to the existing Parks and Rec Master Plan. Based on Councilman Pelly's recommendation to present a document to the Planning and Economic Development Sub-Committee (PED), Jim and Marcia spoke with Councilman Marc Hunt, who is the Council Liaison for PED suggested composing a letter to City Council that would be reviewed by PED. Jim submitted a draft to Councilman Hunt for his comments and to present the letter at the next PED meeting as the first step in submitting to Council. Jim stated that by the November meeting there will be further to report. Jim stated that he offered to attend the PED meeting. Mariate asked if staff should also attend, which was confirmed by Martha McGlohon, Assistant City Attorney, and GC liaison attorney. The next PED meeting is the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30pm. Martha stated that Janet Dack would be the contact person.

- **Announcement of Lake Craig Environmental Assessment:** Jim stated that the assessment is available and that Stephanie Pankowski asked to have this announced at the GC meeting.

- **SACCE (Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and Environmental):** Jim received an email from Chairman Duncan McPherson, who is inviting a GC member to speak at the monthly meeting on what GC is working on and how GC work would overlap with SACCE's work. The next meeting is Wednesday 10/17/12 from 3-5pm at the Public Works. Since Jim could not attend, Marcia volunteered to speak on behalf of GC. Marcia will prepare a slide show for a 5 to 10 minute overview.

- **Greenway Commission Updates:**

1. **Bike and Ped Task Force Report** - Jim reported that he was not able to attend the meeting and has nothing to report.

2. **Community Outreach Committee Report:**

- Sue reported that on 9/27/12 GC was represented at the UNC-A, Sherrill Center with MAHEC. Mary stated that she attended during the lunch hour in which there were a number of people attending. People who were interested and wanted to be involved asked to be placed on a contact list of potential volunteers. Sue stated that she has a contact list from past functions that she has attended of people who would like to be involved. Mary wanted to keep the momentum going and not to lose the volunteers. Stephen and Jim also attended the function.
- Sue stated that there was a write-up in the Montford newsletter on the ribbon-cutting.

3. **Asheville Parks and Greenway Foundation Report:**

- Glen reported that there is a big push for 10/20 event: Dancing With the Stars. Marcia asked if a small contribution could be made and not attend the event. Glen will forward the email from Bob Roepnack to GC and there is also a website for the foundation. Glen asked for the contact list that Sue has in an email format to send invitations of the event.

- ❑ Glen reported that his 6 years as the liaison with the Foundation will end this year and Stephen Jones has expressed interest. This will be carried over to next month's GC meeting.

4. Buncombe County Greenway Commission Report:

- ❑ Marcia reported that now that the County Master Plan has been passed, this will be her last report for awhile. The Parks and Greenways Dept is focusing on developing a set of priorities for parks, greenways and recreation knowing that budgets are tight. There is a new reorganization and P&R which is now under DSS/Public Health. There are hierarchy of commissions and Marcia is not sure if there will be Buncombe County Greenway Commission, but Friends of BC Greenways Group. Marcia guessed that most of the people that were part of the BC Greenway Commission will be part of the Friends of the BC Greenways Groups to take leadership role in public relations and fund raising for moving greenways along based upon the master plan. Marcia hopes to be involved in the Friends Group as an unofficial involvement.

- **STAFF UPDATES:**

Transportation Update: Mariate does not have anything to report at this time.

Planning:

- ❑ Blake reported that at the Planning Department staff meeting it was announced of a major restructuring with the Development Services Center (DSC) that will become a Department. The Development Services Department will include seven Planning staff and employees who are involved in the permitting process and review. Rezoning and larger project reviews will continue in the Planning Department on the 5th floor.
- ❑ New Belgium application will be forthcoming this month. Many pre-application meetings and submittals are expected regarding the greenway component.
- ❑ There was a question from the last GC meeting that Blake attended was how the BCGMP level of precision with the mapping of GIS. Blake spoke with Don Kostelec and Lucy Crown who had the consultants walk all of the borders and identifying semi-precise areas but there were times they did not know so the line would be in the middle of the river rather than specifying what side of the river it would be on to show that there is a corridor but did not indicate which side of the corridor. It is not the same level precision that the City, has but not as vague as the previous City one. Lucy will provide Blake the data.
- ❑ Jim asked about a Lollis tract that Blake presented to GC. Blake stated that there was buyer that seemed interested in the land who asked questions on what could be done. To his knowledge the Lollis Tract is still in the same ownership, but will check on this.
- ❑ Marcia stated that the City is active with the Armory. GC has talked about a way to connect through Tallmadge Street to Hominy Creek greenway and park. Are there thoughts about pursuing this? Blake stated that Nikki Reed is working on this project. Blake is aware that the City is storing and washing vehicles at this site. Nikki is having conversations about the next steps and ultimately considering the possibility of relocating the transit maintenance facility, P&R maintenance facility, other fleet operations which is challenging. Marcia stated that she would hate to lose in this transition and conversations the opportunity to eventually bring the Rhododendron Creek greenway through or even the connection with Tallmadge acts as de-facto greenway which is a connector to Hominy Creek and FBR greenway. Blake stated that he knows that Nikki is aware of it and it is on the master plan. Blake will check with Nikki on any plans. Blake and staff are trying to figure out what can be done without much redevelopment in making full use of the existing facilities.
- ❑ Marcia would like to plant a seed in following up from the work session in setting GC goals in having a multi-modal master plan. If there is a possibility of hiring someone to look at old plans that exist and look at what exists now that might be useful in the next planning stage. To look at transportation, bicycles, sidewalks, greenways and summarize what's positive about those that could be used as first step in going towards a master plan. Marcia stated that she knows someone that is interested in donating part of their time who is a planner that has done regional parking planning that recently moved to Asheville. Marcia asked if there is some discretionary funding that the City could hire someone.

- ❑ Councilman Pelly suggested putting it in a proposal and sending to the City Manager.
- ❑ Mariate stated one of the challenges with greenways that there is not enough staff or budget for greenways planning.
- ❑ Jim recommended safeguards to prevent a potentially incoming consultant to redo the assessment that was previously done by another planner. Mary stated that the work would be an assessment of where greenways are. Marcia has a copy of the 1998 City's Greenway Master Plan. The Wilma Dykeman plan can be found on the City's website.
- ❑ Mary stated that this is a good idea to educate GC as well.
- ❑ Marcia will compose a draft to Councilman Pelly and to staff.
- ❑ Stephen asked Martha McGlohon, Assistant City Attorney about the lawsuit involving the greenway at Beaucatcher. Martha stated she has not heard anything further and not sure if there is a lawsuit. Martha will check further into this matter.
- ❑ Ally stated that there is a newly formed of the East -West Asheville Neighborhood Association that came together because of concerns of traffic and changes to the neighborhood once New Belgium Brewery is established. Last night was the first official meeting with the City, which was not sponsored by New Belgium. The New Belgium Plan was shown to the neighborhood and one of the highlights that everyone appreciated was the greenway piece of the plan.

Announcements:

Jim adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.